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Identical letters dated 2 January 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of note verbale No. WK 1/10/20-548 dated 30 November 1996 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi. The note draws the Embassy's attention to the repeated acts of maritime piracy carried out by Iranian forces against fishing boats belonging to citizens of the United Arab Emirates.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly under agenda items 24 and 145.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Khalid Khalifa AL-MUALLA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi, and has the honour to draw the latter's attention to the fact that, throughout 1996, acts of maritime piracy were repeatedly carried out by Iranian forces against fishing boats belonging to citizens of the United Arab Emirates.

At 1600 hours on 7 May 1996, three nautical miles from Haql Mubarak, Dubai-registered launch No. 1324, captained by Habashi Mubarak Musa, was searched and looted by four members of the Iranian forces armed with Kalashnikovs and using an 18 ft. escort vessel with 200 horsepower Yamaha engines.

At 0900 hours on 15 June 1996, in the area of Hagl Fath, Dubai, an Iranian military patrol seized the Sharjah-registered vessel Imtiyaz, No. 13, captained by Muhammad Jasim, and towed the vessel and its crew to the Linga region. To date, no information has been forthcoming about the fate of this vessel or its crew.

At 0810 hours on 8 August 1996, 40 nautical miles from the Dubai shore, an Iranian military patrol seized the Sharjah-registered vessel Al-Basag, No. 1000, captained by Yusuf Abid Safir al-Makhburi, and towed the vessel and its crew to the Linga region.

At 1900 hours on 26 September 1996, 15 nautical miles and 310 degrees from Khawr Umm al-Qaiwain, Umm al-Qaiwain-registered launches Nos. 213 and 2222 were searched and looted by an Iranian military patrol composed of four men armed with Kalashnikovs and using an escort vessel with 200 horsepower engines.

At 1600 hours on 13 October 1996, 22 nautical miles and 350 degrees from Khawr Umm al-Qaiwain, the Umm al-Qaiwain-registered launch Sari, No. 335, was searched and looted by an Iranian military patrol composed of three men armed with Kalashnikovs and using an escort vessel with 48 horsepower Yamaha engines.

At 1645 hours on 4 November 1996, in the area of Haql Salih, Ras al-Khaimah, Iranian military patrols seized five vessels and their crews, a total of 23 persons, and towed them to the Linga region.

Since the Government of the United Arab Emirates considers these acts of maritime piracy as a violation of international norms, regulations and agreements, and inconsistent with the principles of good-neighbourliness and the preservation of the historical ties and joint interests of the two countries, it requests the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to put a halt to such acts, in the interests of the security and stability of the region.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi the assurances of its highest consideration.